

# Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



Brings You News  
From Sacramento

August 22, 2003



**Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem**

## Legislative Update: Bills Signed by Governor Davis

On Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, the Assembly reconvened to continue working on hundreds of bills. Let me catch you up on the progress of some of my bills.

I am pleased to report that several of my bills were passed by the legislature. Recently signed into law by Governor Davis are Assembly Bills 314, 632, and 965.

AB 314 makes it the policy of the State to consider water desalination projects on an equal basis with other water supply projects when projects are seeking assistance or funding. Desalination is a cost-effective process that creates safe drinking water from seawater sources. The technology has come a long way in the past few years and with the passage of this bill I hope that we will be able to give desalination projects a chance to create a more stable, long-term water supply for California.

AB 632 became law on August 11, 2003 and has already helped 5,000 In-Home Support Service (IHSS) providers become qualified for Worker's Compensation Insurance. IHSS workers aid sick and elderly Californians by providing care and assistance in their homes. This is a cost-savings bill because it includes these workers in the Workers' Compensation pool. That means it is already lowering current Workers' Compensation costs by adding 5,000 new employees to help distribute the costs. Its passage is a victory for IHSS workers, the patients they care for, and all Californians affected by the currently high costs of Workers' Compensation.

AB 965 designates *The Californian* as California's official state tall ship. Recently acquired by the San Diego Maritime Museum, this ship has served as California's ambassador at such events as the Olympics and the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. *The Californian* is now not only a local San Diego treasure, but also an official state symbol. In celebration of this historic occasion, the San Diego Maritime Museum will sail *The Californian* up the coast from San Diego to Sacramento, where we will recognize it as the official California state tall ship.

If you would like to view the text of these or any other bills, you may visit [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) and search by author, bill number, or keyword.

## Regional Transportation Center Opens

Earlier this month I attended the ribbon cutting for San Diego's new Regional Transportation Center (RTC) along with other San Diego elected officials and supporters. It's located on El Cajon Blvd. at I-15. The RTC promotes the use of environmentally friendly alternative fuel vehicles and also provides education to students about alternative fuel technology. I've been working with the RTC since my days on the City Council. This opening marks years of hard work and accomplishment for Managing Director Steve Bimson of the San Diego Environmental Foundation and all the good folks at Ford, setting the tone for the 21<sup>st</sup> century's transition to alternative fuel vehicles. It is designed both to conserve fuel and reduce polluting emissions. To find out more information about this innovative project, visit their website at [www.rtc4afv.com](http://www.rtc4afv.com).



Assemblymember Kehoe joins County Supervisor Pam Slater, Steve Bimson, Councilmember Toni Atkins and Supervisor Ron Roberts at the new RTC.



Assemblymember Kehoe helps celebrate at the RTC ribbon cutting ceremony.

**Newsletter continued on next page...**

## Energy Saving Tips

We had some very warm weather recently. Most of us are aware of the need to conserve energy because of the energy crisis and because it's a good opportunity to lower our utility bills. During the summer months your energy bills can get high if you overuse energy-hungry appliances like air conditioning systems. Here are some tips for making sure the summer heat doesn't burn a hole in your pocket too:

**Replace Air Conditioner Filters:** Replacing filters regularly helps prevent restricted air flow and system inefficiency. This could save you up to 2% on air conditioning costs.

**Close Your Blinds:** Keeping window blinds closed helps keep the heat outside where it belongs, reducing the need for running air conditioning and fans.

**Adjust the Thermostat:** You can save 3% for each degree you set your thermostat above 72 degrees. Try setting it at 78 degrees when you're home and 85 when you're not. Using ceiling or other fans also helps with air circulation.

For more information on energy issues and energy saving tips, visit [www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov).

## Hands on San Diego

Save the date for the volunteering event "Hands on San Diego" September 15-21. Thousands of volunteers will come together in various charitable efforts throughout San Diego. Volunteer teams will be created to beautify parks and beaches, paint shelters, serve food, build playgrounds, organize offices, and complete projects to help those in need all over our city. Participation in this week of volunteering is open to individuals, families, corporations, and other teams. Individuals and families can get started by registering for the Kick Off Event on September 13, where you can find out all the information you need to get involved with this event and contribute some time to the improvement of our city. For more information, visit [www.volunteersandiego.com](http://www.volunteersandiego.com) and click the link to "Hands on San Diego."

## New Reports from the Bureau of State Audits

The Bureau of State Audits keeps an eye on government by ensuring the efficient management of public funds and programs. It is an external agency that provides independent and nonpartisan evaluations of governmental financial and operational activities. The Bureau's findings are published in reports that are open to the public and can be viewed through their website at [www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa](http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa). Visit the Bureau's website to access recent reports that include:

### California Law Enforcement and Correctional Agencies:

*With Increased Efforts, They Could Improve the Accuracy and Completeness of Public Information on Sex Offenders.*

### Department of Social Services:

*Continuing Weaknesses in the Department's Community Care Licensing Programs May Put the Health and Safety of Vulnerable Clients at Risk.*

## Volunteer of the Month Jim North

I was delighted to recognize Jim North as the Volunteer of the Month. Jim is Co-Chair of the famous Mardi Gras Hillcrest and volunteers to help with community events in Hillcrest throughout the year. He devotes several hours a week to volunteer work, all on top of working full time as an insurance agent. Thank you Jim for taking the time to help out around our neighborhood!

I welcome your suggestions of other fine volunteers to commend. Send me an email at [Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov).



Assemblymember Kehoe presents Volunteer of the Month Award to Jim North.

Capitol Office  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001  
Phone: (916) 319-2076 Fax: (916) 319-2176

E-mail: [Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov)

District Office  
1010 University Ave.,  
Ste. C-207  
San Diego, CA 92103  
Phone: (619) 294-7600 Fax: (619) 294-2348